

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present invention is respectfully requested.

The presently claimed invention relates to a machine for presenting a tire. A particularly advantageous feature of the invention relates to the high degree of accessibility of the tire while it is supported by the machine, because the tire support structure presents minimal obstruction to an operator. That is mainly due to the fact that the support structure, e.g., the parts 4, 5, 8 and 91-93 of the disclosed preferred embodiment contact only a toric section of the tire located between an upright 2 and a vertical plane C containing the rotational axis X of the tire. (See amended Fig. 2 for a showing of the plane C.) That feature, clearly depicted in the original drawings, is now recited in new independent claim 15. Note the high degree of access to the tire available to the operator shown in Fig. 2.

Contrast such access to that afforded by the prior art Branick patent wherein the support structure includes a supporting roller 55 arranged to engage a section of the tire located to the left of a vertical plane containing the rotational axis of the tire in Fig. 2. Thus, the support structure of Branick does not contact only a toric section of the tire located between an upright (on which the support structure translates) and a vertical plane containing the tire's rotational axis as presently claimed. Although Branick's roller 55 is not depicted in its upper portion in Fig. 2, its location can be imagined, as well as the obstruction it presents to accessing the tire.

Therefore, it is submitted that claim 15 distinguishes patentably over Branick. Language now being used in claim 15 has been inserted into the description, which language merely describes structure which is clearly evident from the original disclosure.

Dependent claims 2-14 and 16-17 are submitted as allowable along with claim 15. New dependent claim 16 recites that the support structure includes support means arranged to underlie the toric section of a tire (e.g., see support roller 8 of the disclosed preferred embodiment), and additional support means for holding and spreading the tire beads (e.g., see supports 91-93 of the disclosed preferred embodiment). Those means are arranged for "simultaneously" contacting and supporting the tire as the tire is raised. In contrast, the bead-spreading rollers 124 of Branick do not engage the tire as it is being raised by the roller 55. Rather, the roller 55 raises the tire to a position where it can be contacted by the bead-spreading rollers 124.

New claim 17 recites first, second and third support means forming a triangulation system which ensures the grasping of the tire in a working position of the frame prior to raising the tire, and also ensuring a stable raising and holding of the tire. That feature does not seem to be disclosed by Branick which shows, in Fig. 2, only a two-location supporting of the tire by rollers 59 and 56.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 24, 2005

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawing replaces the original sheet depicting Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 has been amended by inserting plane C and axis X.

Attachment: Replacement sheet (Fig. 2)